

Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

Bulletin

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NOVEMBER, 1931

*O winds of the sea that whisper,
Will you not whisper to me
What the marvellous strange visions
Of a little child may be?
O wild rose, stirred and shaken,
By the wind that ripples the stream,
Why are the children dreaming,
And what are the dreams they dream?*

—JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS

THE EFFECT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ON CHILD WELFARE

About November first the members of the League which are engaged in the care of children were asked to furnish the figures of their case loads on January 1 and July 1, 1930, and January 1 and July 1, 1931, for the purpose of making some appraisal of the effect registered in statistics that unemployment was having on child care. When the present analysis was made, replies had been received from 84 institutions and agencies, public and private, located in all parts of the United States. The number of children under care on the four dates may be assumed to be, in general, representative of the changes that have come in the populations of the respective institutions and agencies during the period in question.

The figures show considerable variety as to whether they had increased, decreased or remained practically unchanged. In general it may be said that the trend of the total number of children cared for away from their own homes is toward larger, though not yet very much larger, numbers. The growth is as follows for the four dates:

	Total No. of children under care
January 1, 1930.....	43,177
July 1, 1930.....	43,895
January 1, 1931.....	43,438
July 1, 1931.....	45,994

A small increase in the number of children received under care or supervision might have come to these institutions and agencies in the aggregate, even if the "times" were good, but at least 2,000 children have been added because the depression has broken their families.

The following table shows the number of organiza-

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COOPERATION OF LOCAL SOCIAL WORKERS NEEDED IN DEALING WITH JUVENILES VIOLATING FEDERAL LAWS

A well-attended and enthusiastic luncheon meeting on the care of juveniles violating Federal laws was held in Baltimore October 16 in connection with the National Conference of Juvenile Agencies under the chairmanship of Sanford Bates, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice. Mr. Bates and Joel R. Moore, Supervisor of Probation, reviewed the present situation and the policies developed by the Attorney General and the Bureau of Prisons, and Katharine F. Lenroot, Assistant Chief of the Children's Bureau, described the assistance which that Bureau, at the request of the Attorney General, is prepared to give. Federal Judge Coleman and Juvenile Judge Waxter of Baltimore emphasized the desirability of reference of Federal cases involving juveniles to State juvenile courts whenever possible. At the suggestion of Leon Faulkner of Children's Village, Dobbs Ferry, N. Y., it was informally agreed that the possibilities of the use of State institutions for children violating Federal laws, and the problems involved in accepting children committed by Federal courts, should be discussed at meetings of institution superintendents to be held this winter.

In a circular dated August 14, 1931, the Attorney General defined the general policy governing these cases as follows:

"You will see that the policy established is that, wherever practicable and consistent with the due enforcement of Federal statutes, juvenile delinquents who come into Federal custody will promptly be returned to the communities from which they come, for care and supervision or punishment by the State authorities. You are requested to execute this policy in dealing with cases coming under your supervision until legislation is passed authorizing it."

Many difficult problems are to be worked out, involving provision for detention, investigation, transportation of non-resident children—who constitute a large proportion of juvenile Federal offenders—back to their home communities to be dealt with by local juvenile courts, and facilities for institutional care. In a number of Federal districts there are neither Federal probation officers nor well-organized State juvenile courts. United States marshals, commissioners and attorneys

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THE EFFECT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ON CHILD WELFARE (Continued from page 1)

tions from which reports were received, with the number reporting increased, decreased, or unchanged populations.

	Number of Organizations Reporting	Children under care		
		Increase	Decrease	Unchanged
Total.....	84	44	18	22
Agencies				
Public.....	8	5	2	1
Private.....	60	32	14	14
Institutions				
Public.....	2	2
Private.....	14	5	2	7

The results for children cared for in boarding homes were analyzed in a similar way. These figures showed a substantial increase during the eighteen months, as will be seen from the following:

	No. of children in boarding homes
January 1, 1930.....	10,645
July 1, 1930.....	11,476
January 1, 1931.....	11,764
July 1, 1931.....	12,514

	Number of Organizations Reporting	In boarding homes		
		Increase	Decrease	Unchanged
Total.....	77	41	16	20
Agencies				
Public.....	7	4	2	1
Private.....	55	31	12	12
Institutions				
Public.....	1	1
Private.....	14	5	2	7

On the other hand, the total number of children cared for in free homes showed a different trend. The inability of private families to give as many children free homes as formerly is registered in these figures.

	No. of children in free homes
January 1, 1930.....	4,766
July 1, 1930.....	4,589
January 1, 1931.....	4,430
July 1, 1931.....	4,367

An analysis by agencies does not present any significant changes because the decrease in the numbers is not large enough.

Comparison of the figures for boarding and free home care separately of the agencies reporting may be of interest.

	In boarding homes		In free homes	
	Public	Private	Public	Private
January 1, 1930.....	2,024	8,621	1,452	3,314
July 1, 1930.....	2,278	9,198	1,417	3,172
January 1, 1931.....	2,448	9,316	1,336	3,094
July 1, 1931.....	2,831	9,683	1,262	3,105

As might be expected, greater changes were found in the reports from public agencies than private agencies.

The number of children in institutions for the four dates were similarly analyzed. Reports were received from 16 institutions and from 27 agencies with receiving homes.

	No. of children in institutions	
	Public	Private
January 1, 1930.....	991	3,587
July 1, 1930.....	1,052	3,552
January 1, 1931.....	1,098	3,567
July 1, 1931.....	1,054	3,498

It will be seen that the effect of the depression has not been registered upon these institutions. The public institutions have slightly larger populations, the private slightly smaller. The expansion or contraction of institutions is always a much slower process than similar change in boarding or free home care. Of the 43 institutions and receiving homes reporting, 12 showed increases, 13 decreases and the population of 18 remained substantially unchanged.

The number of applications for service are an additional measure of the effect of the depression. Sixty-nine institutions and agencies reported the applications that had been received during the month previous to the respective dates. The totals of these applications were compared, and were as follows:

	No. of applications
January 1, 1930.....	2,165
July 1, 1930.....	2,758
January 1, 1931.....	2,292
July 1, 1931.....	2,747

	Number of Organizations Reporting	Applications		
		Increase	Decrease	Unchanged
Total.....	69	34	10	25
Agencies				
Public.....	4	3	..	1
Private.....	52	28	9	15
Institutions				
Public.....
Private.....	13	3	1	9

Public institutions, strictly speaking, have no applications. They receive children by commitment only.

Fifty-seven organizations reported the amount of refunds for the six-month periods. Of the agencies reporting, 15 reported an increase and 42 reported a decrease in the amount of refunds. Public institutions and agencies as a rule have small refunds and usually not any.

	Amount of refunds
January 1, 1930.....	\$322,060
July 1, 1930.....	321,954
January 1, 1931.....	313,072
July 1, 1931.....	283,915

The amounts of refunds asked for were limited to those coming from relatives or friends so that the sums might

be differentiated from payments made to private institutions and agencies from public sources.

A number of the private institutions and agencies increased their refunds because they have refused to receive children into care unless full board or at least part of the board could be paid. This is an additional and unfortunate result of the depression.

In general, it may be said that the financial depression did not make itself felt in any large measure upon the number of dependent children cared for away from their own homes in 1930, but that the numbers are showing substantial increases in the aggregate during 1931 and particularly in the expansion of public care. Just as family relief has led to great expansion of public budgets, so in child care the future will see a considerable expansion of public service. When families have in large measure gone back to work many of the children whose families were broken will remain for years to come financial liabilities upon the community.

A more careful analysis of the returns than has been possible now would show that the private agencies reporting larger numbers are generally those which turn for support to public treasuries.

By July 1, 1931, it is evident in the country at large, and not only the organizations in our membership, that an increase in applications and case loads had come to the private agencies although certain of them remained unaffected especially where large public service was also available to absorb the "unlimited intake." This was confirmed by the apparent expansion of State, county or municipal effort in the care of children—two-thirds of the agencies reporting such public expansion in their areas, either by actual expansion of public facilities or by larger finances being available for private agencies from public sources. Nearly half of the private institutions and agencies reported larger funds available. While these were as a rule obtained from public sources, a number of private organizations had dipped into capital funds that were unrestricted gifts and considered that this emergency was a reasonable excuse to use such funds.

While in many instances strictly private agencies had to turn individual cases toward public support or public care, but few agencies had so far found it necessary to modify their programs by cutting away whole blocks of service. Nearly one-half of the organizations complained of the necessity of having to take some children mainly because of inadequate relief. In a few of these instances the agencies were helping out by returning the children to their parents and paying board for them. Fortunately but few children's agencies report reductions of office staff and one-sixth of those reporting showed an actual increase.

On the question of reduction of salary considerable apprehension was expressed. While most of the agen-

cies had suffered no reductions, the air was laden in many communities with rumors and beliefs that reductions were coming unless the "times" were rapidly bettered. In about one-fourth of the agencies reporting some salary reductions had been made for 1932. These were in but one case over 10 per cent and usually less for salaries under \$2,000. In several instances the asked for decrease had been translated into a gift to the budget of the community chest so as to allow the standard of pay for normal times to stand.

COOPERATION NEEDED IN DEALING WITH JUVENILES VIOLATING FEDERAL LAWS

(Continued from page 1)

in these communities, especially, will need the assistance of workers in family welfare and children's agencies in making investigations, arranging for detention, and working out plans for transporting non-resident children to their home communities. As yet the Federal Government has no funds for such transportation.

The Bureau of Prisons has appointed Edgar M. Gerlack, formerly of the staff of the Henry Watson Children's Aid Society, Baltimore, and later supervisor of cottages and discipline of the New Jersey State Home for Boys, as assistant supervisor of probation, to develop a case-work approach to the problem of children coming to the attention of Federal authorities. The Children's Bureau is also adding to its staff for the purpose of cooperating actively with the Department of Justice. Both Bureaus look to the child welfare workers of the country for suggestions and assistance in the furthering of plans for dealing with these delinquent children for whose needs both their home communities, their States, and the Federal Government are responsible.

CHILD LABOR STILL WITH US

The National Child Labor Committee, in its annual report, states that "of children and young people under eighteen years of age now at work or looking for work in competition with adults it is safe to say that a million or more ought to be in school." While it is true that employment of boys under fourteen and except in rare cases under sixteen has been eliminated on coal breakers and in glass works, and the employment of twelve- and thirteen-year-olds from southern cotton mills, the employment of young migrants working nine to eleven hours a day, of street vendors working far into the night, of children under fourteen in agriculture and in tenement house work, is still with us.

Child Labor Day, 1932, will be observed January 23d, for synagogues; January 24th, for Sabbath schools and churches; and January 27th, for schools, clubs and other organizations. Additional information can be secured from the National Child Labor Committee, 331 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

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"WHAT MANNER OF CHILD HAVE WE?"

DR. CARRIE HERRING, Child Welfare Supervisor
 Summit County Children's Home, Akron, Ohio

(Continued from October Bulletin)

Our plans for the children involve the supervisors first. The supervisors stand in the rôle of mothers. The right social attitudes are probably taught mostly by the mother, indirectly or by example. Then we must expect the supervisors who act as mothers to create a home atmosphere exemplifying and practicing fairness, courtesy, honesty, sympathy and sincerity. A good example is the most splendid teacher and perhaps these attributes can be taught in no other way. We want the supervisors, then, not only to have a practical knowledge of children, but a theoretical knowledge.

In our institution the supervisors all attend the Parent-Teachers' meetings and take an active part. They visit the schools regularly and make contacts with the teachers. They have taken advantage of the child training courses offered at the Y. W. C. A. and the Federated Women's Clubs. We also have a course in child psychology offered annually here in the institution. They attend conferences and have access to many books and magazines pertaining to child life.

Recognizing that initiative is very pronounced in young children, we have set about to try to retain some of it for later life. For this reason we have started nursery school methods in our Infant and Pre-school Departments. We feel that the child needs experience in carrying out his own impulses and in starting activities of his own. We want him to experience both success and failure in moderation. We want him to have an opportunity for self-chosen activities in an environment that is both safe and stimulating. Instead of having little sheep-like children that walk down the street holding hands and giving no impression except that of absolute cleanliness, we want children who are participators in life.

We hope that the supervisors of the older children may catch the influence too that is created in these departments and stand ready hereafter to welcome initiative joyously rather than to seek to destroy it.

Of recent years there has been wide-spread recognition of the importance of the early period of a child's life. We now have supervisors who actually enjoy watching the mental, social and spiritual growth of their children.

For the older children we are trying to develop this interest in making plans for themselves. The children think constantly, "What is to become of me, what is going to be the next move?" We discuss with them their own plans for the rest of their stay in the institution and for their careers. Their plans are surprisingly good. We want to carry them out, if possible, so that they may have a feeling that they have helped to make themselves successful. It also gives them a feeling of security; they know fairly well what the next few years are to bring them.

If a boy has chosen salesmanship as his life occupation, we want him to choose the kind of courses at school that will help him. We want him to get a little job after school, helping in a store or selling papers. And, for his summer vacation, a plan that will carry out his ambitions so that when he is through high school and ready to go to work he will have had some experience already in adjusting in the economic world.

As for the younger boys and girls, we are giving them try-outs in many departments: painting, carpentering, gardening, bedmaking, nursing, infant care, etc. Of course, in reality they are helping with the work of the institution, but they are also getting some experience in many kinds of jobs.

We regret exceedingly that they cannot be paid for their jobs and then in turn buy their own clothing, etc., thus gaining experience in handling money wisely, but we have not yet attained this Utopian state.

There are many opportunities for the children to make choices in their daily routine. They have a huge playground where one can perform on all kinds of apparatus. There are tennis courts, swimming pools, ball grounds, sand piles, slides, etc. There are carpenter shops where one may take apart old automobiles, or build aeroplanes, or construct clocks, or carve furniture. There is a part-time teacher for dramatics and music, and physical education and manual arts.

We do not wish our children to become a community in themselves, but to feel that they are a part of the community at large, so they go to school and church, participate in Boy Scout and Girl Scout, Girl Reserves, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. activities, and belong to the athletic and dramatic clubs of the schools. We do not urge competition, but participation. We want them not to be onlookers of the community, but participators in the community. Hobbies are encouraged as much as possible. Reading material is amply provided.

Our greatest need is part-time work with pay. When we approach people for jobs for our children, they say,

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"But your children have everything, good food, good clothes, good toys; we want to help people who really need it." If they only knew how badly our children want to be independent and how stimulating it would be for them to have an opportunity to help themselves, they would not give such an excuse. We want later on to form a little employment agency of our own where we can have many jobs available, so that we may early teach our children that there is joy in work and in independence.

We think that foster home placement has been particularly desirable for our nervous children and for children who crave more affection than a busy supervisor is always able to give. The dull boys and girls who do not respond to higher educational advantages have done well on farms and in small communities and are so placed at every opportunity.

We have tried to understand the type of child with whom we are dealing, and the environment from which he came; then, understanding these things, we have tried to provide a new environment for him which will help him to lay a foundation for adequate adjustments later in life.

We have tried also to provide for him emotional outlets to compensate for the home life and the love which he has missed.

We recognize that we must do everything in our power to make him competent to achieve social and economic security when he leaves us so that in the words of the Children's Charter, he may be able "To stand firm under the pressure of life."

"WHO ARE OUR WARDS?"

In the Thanksgiving number of Little Wanderers' Advocate, published by the New England Home for Little Wanderers, Boston, there is one paragraph which indicates how broad the service of this organization really is. Increasingly the children's agencies of this country are attempting to get away from hampering restrictions which tend to confine their service too largely to specially designated groups. The following answer to the question, "Who Are Our Wards?" portrays flexibility of program in terms of children.

Who has a right to enter our doors? To whom do we refer in 1931 when we say "Little Wanderers"?

All children in trouble,—all children whose own families are failing or have failed them. They may be without parents because of death or desertion; unwanted because born out of wedlock; neglected, exposed to vicious example, in the good Massachusetts phrase, "without salutary control"; hungry, cold, in rags, miserable in mind, wayward, even delinquent; all these children, unhappy themselves and a constant threat to orderly society, call out to the community to witness their need and to see that they are well served. These are the "Little Wanderers" of 1931.

"CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS" REVIEWED

[NOTE—As neither the Editor of the BULLETIN nor anyone else can easily duplicate the following review printed in the current *Catholic Charities Review*, we are reprinting it without her permission.—C.C.C.]

The paucity of available material on the subject of child-caring institutions is a topic of perennial lament among social workers, teachers, executives of institutions and other workers whose interest in the improvement of institutional care stimulates them to undertake research and study in this particular field of applied social science. "Children's Institutions," therefore, is not only an able contribution to contemporary social welfare literature but is also the first attempt made in this country to analyze actual processes used in children's institutions and to draw conclusions therefrom which will be pertinent in the training of children's workers.

Dr. Cooper, the director of the study which brought together the factual material comprising the framework of the volume he has written, had a field staff of five persons. These workers were told that their job was to find out "hows" and "whys" rather than "whats." It was explained to the 97 institutional executives who were visited that the purpose of the visit was not "to survey but to study; not to teach but to learn; not to criticize but to discover; not to suggest but to observe." The result of this approach and of Dr. Cooper's interpretation of the material thus gathered is an epoch-making volume which will have a profound effect upon the development of all institutional service regardless of the auspices under which it is conducted.

The arrangement of the subject matter, the references at the end of each chapter, the bibliography and the very complete index make for the mechanical usefulness of "Children's Institutions" as a text-book. The clear and forceful English Dr. Cooper has used throughout the volume and the freshness of his expression, which somehow refurbishes and colorfully bedecks our ordinary run-of-the-mine social work terminology, make the reading of the text a literary pursuit rather than a mere professional duty.

For example, there are not many volumes on social work practice in which one finds such passages as the following:

"It is worth more to feel the beauty of a rose petal than to win a prize at a flower show. * * * It may not be easy to train the child to find books in running brooks and sermons in stones but it is always possible to help him see the hand of God in woodland flower and in starry night. * * * Beauty in all its many roles lifts and exalts us above the material and the earthly, to the supernal and spiritual, to Him who is infinite Beauty."

The cross section of child-caring institutions selected for study yielded examples of methods by which generally accepted standards of child-care have been put into effect. In one institution perhaps there might be utilized only a few of those methods designed to meet the old but only recently generally recognized needs of all children, but the composite institution which Dr. Cooper has assembled from the individual sketches secured by his field staff reveals the actual use of the majority of our 1931 models of institutional practice.

In a brief review it is not possible to enumerate all of the important contributions to our knowledge of what is happening in the children's institutions of this country made by this new volume. However, we believe the following points are of particular value to the entire child-caring field:

1. The increased emphasis by the institutions studied upon utilizing all available community resources to conserve the child's own home before consent to admission is given. "Participation in the sundering of a family is ethical only where the most compelling reasons intervene."

2. The recognition of the trend toward reduction of institutional populations through the application of case work methods at the point of intake. "It is not possible to determine conclusively whether the trend toward lower institutional population is nation-wide and permanent. It is clear, however, that in many institutions, perhaps in the majority, there has been a marked trend toward decrease of population during the past ten years. More careful pre-admission investigations, the more strict control of intake, the increase in mothers' pensions, in subsidies to mothers by voluntary agencies, and in family work, have had a very considerable share in such decrease as has occurred. The foregoing data, scattered soundings though they be, give evidence that markedly increasing use of community resources is being made by our institutions in order to keep families together and to keep children with their own parents."

3. The proven practicability of providing housekeeping service for motherless families as revealed by case summaries secured from Catholic agencies included in the study. While the use of this method is not widespread, it is significant because it reveals the effort being made to add to the flexibility of child-care programs.

4. Allocating children to institutions and foster homes "in the light of one supreme consideration, the needs of the individual child. * * * There appears fair unanimity of view among our institutions that a great many children who would formerly have been kept indefinitely in the institution can and should be placed out in foster homes where suitable homes can be found."

5. The recognition in practically all of the institutions

visited of the need for individualizing treatment and the many examples of how this can be accomplished through the processes employed in religious training, discipline, education, vocational guidance and recreation.

6. The examples given of the practices followed by various institutions in securing adequate medical, psychological and psychiatric service.

7. The trend toward smaller institutional units wherever possible and the definite recommendation that cottages housing not more than twenty children should be constructed by institutions undertaking a replacement or new building project.

Dr. Cooper's interest in pursuing leads which indicate processes employed by institutions has given us more knowledge of how institutional wheels go around than we have ever had before. The compiling and interpretation of the data secured on the group of institutions included in this study should be an incentive to all institutions for more critical analysis of their own jobs and for frankly facing the question of how they may best adapt their service to present-day conditions and to the newer conception of the needs of children.

If there were space to set out the few criticisms which one might make, they would be centered chiefly around differences of opinion as to certain points of emphasis; and perhaps also around what might be regarded as a too quick descent from "the level of the ideal to the level of the real" in the discussion of the problem of finding suitable foster homes. However, one should not hunt around in a haystack of valuable material for a needle about which to be critical.

Believing that an intelligently administered institution has a legitimate place in our present-day scheme of child-care; and having looked forward to the time when the results of actual experience in attempting to dovetail modern case work principles with institutional practice would be made available to the country as a whole, I appreciate the privilege of welcoming "Children's Institutions" to the social worker's Five Foot Shelf.

—MARY IRENE ATKINSON

CHANGES FOR THE DIRECTORY

NEW YORK—Fellowship House, New York City. New address: 71 West 47th Street.

PENNSYLVANIA—The Bethesda School, Chestnut Hill, Pa. Drop from list of members.

THE EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The date of the Eastern Regional Conference has not yet been determined, but it will not be held in January, as has been the custom.

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"CHRISTMAS BY INJUNCTION"

In the story, "Christmas by Injunction," O. Henry tells how Cherokee, the civic father of the mining town Yellowhammer, tried to bring Christmas to the town and how valiantly the town tried to respond to his efforts to make glad the hearts of little children. The only drawback was that except for one poor sophisticated ten-year-old lad, there were no children available to grace Cherokee's Christmas party.

Cherokee had found the first nugget of gold on the spot which was later to be the center of Yellowhammer. His friends had come in and almost overnight there was a town—mostly of canvas and yellow pine but still a town. Then suddenly Cherokee's claim played out and once more he became a prospector. Seven months after he had turned his back upon Yellowhammer Baldy, the mail rider, brought back the news that he had seen Cherokee in Albuquerque "festooned up like the Czar of Turkey." He had found gold in the Mariposas. Furthermore, Cherokee would arrive in Yellowhammer the day before Christmas in a red sleigh which would be filled with toys for the children of the town. Absolute silence greeted Baldy's announcement. When questioned by the miner, Trinidad, as to why he didn't remind Cherokee that there were no children in Yellowhammer, Baldy could find no appropriate excuse except his unwillingness to dampen Cherokee's enthusiasm.

Christmas would come on Thursday. On Tuesday morning Trinidad, instead of going to work, sought the Judge at the Lucky Strike Hotel.

"It'll be a disgrace to Yellowhammer," said Trinidad, "if it throws Cherokee down on his Christmas tree blowout. You might say that that man made this town. For one, I'm goin' to see what can be done to give Santa Claus a square deal."

"My cooperation," said the Judge, "would be gladly forthcoming. I am indebted to Cherokee for past favors. But I do not see—I have heretofore regarded the absence of children rather as a luxury—but in this instance—still, I do not see—"

"Look at me," said Trinidad, "and you'll see old Ways and Means with the fur on. I'm goin' to hitch up a team and rustle a load of kids for Cherokee's Santa Claus act if I have to rob an orphan asylum." ***

"I will accompany you," declared the Judge, waving his cane.

Within an hour Yellowhammer was acquainted with the scheme of Trinidad and the Judge, and approved it. Citizens who knew of families with offspring within a forty-mile radius of Yellowhammer came forward and contributed their information.

The first stop scheduled was at a double log-house fifteen miles out from Yellowhammer. A man opened the door at Trinidad's hail, and then came down and leaned upon the rickety gate. The doorway was filled

with a close mass of youngsters, some ragged, all full of curiosity and health.

"It's this way," explained Trinidad. "We're from Yellowhammer, and we come kidnappin' in a gentle kind of a way. One of our leading citizens is stung with the Santa Claus affliction, and he's due in town tomorrow with half the folderols that's painted red and made in Germany. The youngest kid we got in Yellowhammer packs a forty-five and a safety razor. Consequently we're mighty shy on anybody to say 'Oh' and 'Ah' when we light the candles on the Christmas tree. Now, partner, if you'll loan us a few kids we guarantee to return 'em safe and sound on Christmas Day. And they'll come back loaded down with a good time and Swiss Family Robinsons and cornucopias and red drums and similar testimonials. What do you say?"

"In other words," said the Judge, "we have discovered for the first time in our embryonic but progressive little city the inconveniences of the absence of adolescence. The season of the year having approximately arrived during which it is a custom to bestow frivolous but often appreciated gifts upon the young and tender—"

"I understand," said the parent, packing his pipe with a forefinger. "I guess I needn't detain you gentlemen. Me and the old woman have got seven kids, so to speak; and, runnin' my mind over the bunch, I don't appear to hit upon none that we could spare for you to take over to your doin's. The old woman has got some popcorn candy and rag dolls hid in the clothes chest, and we allow to give Christmas a little whirl of our own in a insignificant sort of style. No, I couldn't with any degree of avidity seem to fall in with the idea of lettin' none of 'em go. Thank you kindly, gentlemen."

Down the slope they drove and up another foothill to the ranch-house of Wiley Wilson. Trinidad recited his appeal and the Judge boomed out his ponderous antiphony. Mrs. Wiley gathered her two rosy-cheeked youngsters close to her skirts and did not smile until she had seen Wiley laugh and shake his head. Again a refusal.

Trinidad and the Judge vainly exhausted more than half their list before twilight set in among the hills. They spent the night at a stage road hostelry, and set out again early the next morning. The wagon had not acquired a single passenger.

"It's creepin' upon my faculties," remarked Trinidad, "that borrowin' kids at Christmas is somethin' like tryin' to steal butter from a man that's got hot pancakes a-comin'."

"It is undoubtedly an indisputable fact," said the Judge, "that the—ah—family ties seem to be more coherent and assertive at that period of the year."

On the day before Christmas they drove thirty miles, making four fruitless halts and appeals. Everywhere they found "kids" at a premium.

The sun was low when the wife of a section boss on a

lonely railroad huddled her unavailable progeny behind her and said:

"There's a woman that's just took charge of the railroad eatin' house down at Granite Junction. I hear she's got a little boy. Maybe she might let him go."

Trinidad pulled up his mules at Granite Junction at five o'clock in the afternoon. The train had just departed with its load of fed and appeased passengers.

On the steps of the eating house they found a thin and glowering boy of ten smoking a cigarette. The dining-room had been left in chaos by the peripatetic appetites. A youngish woman reclined, exhausted, in a chair. Her face wore sharp lines of worry. She had once possessed a certain style of beauty that would never wholly leave her and would never wholly return. Trinidad set forth his mission.

"I'd count it a mercy if you'd take Bobby for a while," she said, wearily. "I'm on the go from morning till night, and I don't have time to 'tend to him. He's learning bad habits from the men. It'll be the only chance he'll have to get any Christmas."

The men went outside and conferred with Bobby. Trinidad pictured the glories of the Christmas tree and presents in lively colors.

"And, moreover, my young friend," added the Judge, "Santa Claus himself will personally distribute the offerings that will typify the gifts conveyed by the shepherds of Bethlehem to—"

"Aw, come off," said the boy, squinting his small eyes. "I ain't no kid. There ain't any Santa Claus. It's your folks that buys toys and sneaks 'em in when you're asleep."***

"That might be so," argued Trinidad, "but Christmas trees ain't no fairy tale. This one's goin' to look like the ten-cent store in Albuquerque, all strung up in a redwood. There's tops and drums and Noah's arks and—"

"Oh, rats!" said Bobby, wearily. "I cut them out long ago. I'd like to have a rifle—not a target one—a real one, to shoot wildcats with; but I guess you won't have any of them on your old tree."

"Well, I can't say for sure," said Trinidad diplomatically; "it might be. You go along with us and see."

The hope thus held out, though faint, won the boy's hesitating consent to go. With this solitary beneficiary for Cherokee's holiday bounty, the canvassers spun along the homeward road.

In Yellowhammer the empty storeroom had been transformed into what might have passed as the bower of an Arizona fairy. The ladies had done their work well. A tall Christmas tree, covered to the topmost branch with candles, spangles, and toys sufficient for more than a score of children, stood in the center of the floor. Near sunset anxious eyes had begun to scan the

street for the returning team of the child-providers. At noon that day Cherokee had dashed into town with his new sleigh piled high with bundles and boxes and bales of all sizes and shapes.***

The ladies were flitting about the tree, giving it final touches that were never final. At length the wagon of the child "rustlers" rattled down the street to the door. The ladies, with little screams of excitement, flew to the lighting of the candles. The men of Yellowhammer passed in and out restlessly or stood about the room in embarrassed groups.

Trinidad and the Judge, bearing the marks of protracted travel, entered, conducting between them a single impish boy, who stared with sullen, pessimistic eyes at the gaudy tree.

"Where are the other children?" asked the assayer's wife, the acknowledged leader of all social functions.

"Ma'am," said Trinidad with a sigh, "prospectin' for kids at Christmas time is like huntin' in limestone for silver. This parental business is one that I haven't no chance to comprehend. It seems that fathers and mothers are willin' for their offsprings to be drowned, stole, fed on poison oak, and et by catamounts 364 days in the year; but on Christmas Day they insists on enjoyin' the exclusive mortification of their company. This here young biped, ma'am, is all that washes out of our two days' manoeuvres."

"Oh, the sweet little boy!" cooed Miss Erma.***

Then the door opened and Cherokee entered in the conventional dress of Saint Nick. A white, rippling beard and flowing hair covered his face almost to his dark and shining eyes. Over his shoulder he carried a pack.

No one stirred as he came in. Bobby stood with his hands in his pockets gazing gloomily at the effeminate and childish tree. Cherokee put down his pack and looked wonderingly about the room. Perhaps he fancied that a bevy of eager children were being herded somewhere, to be loosed upon his entrance. He went up to Bobby and extended his red-mittened hand.

"Merry Christmas, little boy," said Cherokee. "Anything on the tree you want they'll get it down for you. Won't you shake hands with Santa Claus?"

"There ain't any Santa Claus," whined the boy. "You've got old false billy goat's whiskers on your face. I ain't no kid. What do I want with dolls and tin horses? The driver said you'd have a rifle, and you haven't. I want to go home."***

"Where do you live, little boy?" Cherokee asked respectfully.

"Granite Junction," said Bobby without emphasis.

The room was warm. Cherokee took off his cap, and then removed his beard and wig.***

"Keep this boy by you till I come back," he said. "I'm goin' to shed these Christmas duds, and hitch up my sleigh. I'm goin' to take this kid home."***